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IT ALL COUNTS

Ten-year-old can collector Dallas Rioux stands in front of two real-time counting screens, which are becoming mandatory at bottle depots in Calgary in 2015. The displays help ensure Rioux and his family are getting a fair shake while raising money for the Canadian Diabetes Association. See page 3.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Less tax on homes but businesses to still pay more

New direction.
Council opts to return this year's 'tax room' to taxpayers

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Typical Calgary homeowners will pay about $40 less in property tax this year, while business taxes will shoot up seven per cent and no extra money will be allocated for affordable housing or other projects, as the result of two decisions at city council Monday.

In a pair of 8-6 votes, councillors grappled over what to do with $27.6 million in "tax room" ceded by the Alberta government in its 2014 property-tax requisition.

Council first rejected a plan that would have used roughly two-thirds of that annual source of money to soften the blow to businesses, which were hit particularly hard by this year's requisition, and use the remaining $9.8 million to build affordable housing.

The funds would have enabled the city to build a 40-unit affordable housing block every year, Coun. Brian Pincott said.

In the second vote, council approved using the full $27.6 million annually to reduce taxes on both residential and commercial properties.

For residential properties, that means a 2.3 per cent tax hike this year (4.8 per cent on the municipal side, -1.5 per cent on the provincial side) but, coupled with the one-time tax rebate council approved last year, net tax bills will actually drop on a typical home.

Taxes on commercial properties, meanwhile, will rise 7.0 per cent (4.8 per cent on the municipal side and 14.2 per cent on the provincial side), something that disappointed Richard Truscott of the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses.

"The majority on council has chosen political expediency over doing the right thing," he said. "There's more votes to be gained by cutting taxes on the residential side and therefore sticking it to businesses — including small businesses — on the other side."

Coun. Andre Chabot said Calgarians need a tax break, especially given looming increases in utility rates.

"We're going to be facing some massive increases … and this will further burden taxpayers," he said.

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Education.
CBE wants to use reserves to deal with budgetary shortfall

Calgary public school executives will seek permission from trustees during a meeting Tuesday to drain operating reserves in a bid to close a nearly $28-million budget gap without heavily impacting classrooms.

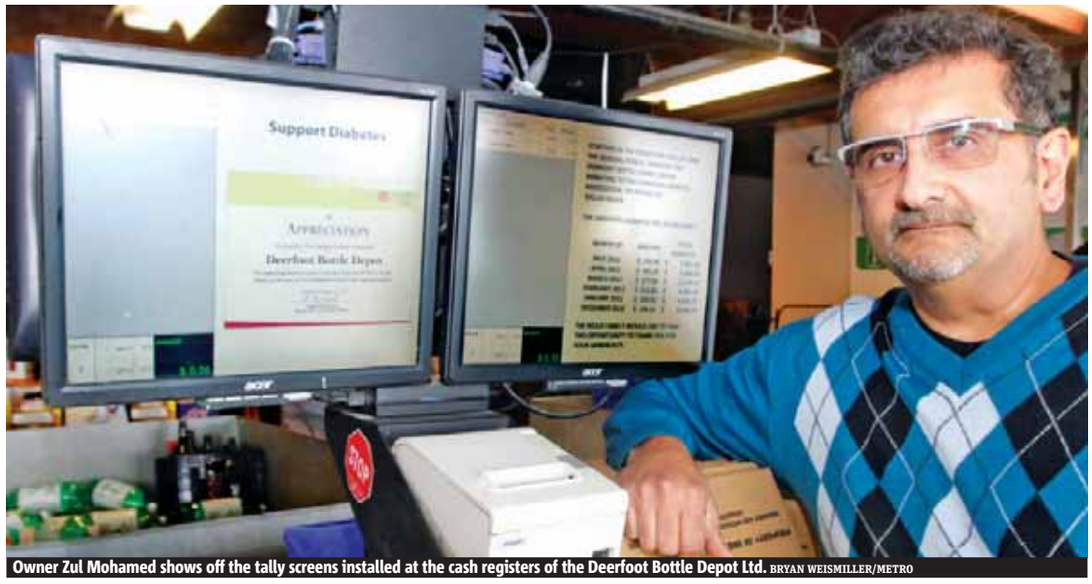
But the Calgary Board of Education's $20.3-million rainy day funds already total less than the 2-2.5 per cent of its total budget the Alberta School Boards Association recommends being stored.

And even if officials choose to completely empty its reserve, the amount would be unlikely to cover the estimated $27.7-million shortfall for the 2014-15 school year.

The report going before trustees doesn't specify how much of the reserve fund would be used, and CBE trustee chair Sheila Taylor said she expects a number of questions to arise about the long-term implications of emptying the fund should administrators go that route.

"I think that you have to balance spending in current years while having cash on hand for unexpected situations," Taylor said in an interview Monday.

Last year, the CBE opted to heavily cut per-student grants for high-school students as it stared down a $62-million shortfall. In the fall, average class sizes for senior students, which were already generally the highest in the province, jumped 10 per cent, and reports emerged of more than 40 kids squeezed into some rooms. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO



Owner Zul Mohamed shows off the tally screens installed at the cash registers of the Deerfoot Bottle Depot Ltd. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

A message in a bottle: You won't be cheated

Can conscious. New provincial regulations will require depots to install real-time counting displays by 2015

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Bottle depot owner Zul Mohamed knows the great lengths can-conscious customers go to avoid getting short-changed at the cash register.

Some bring calculators, while others "three-count" at home before stepping through the sliding doors of his Douglasdale warehouse.

To quell that qualm, provincial regulations will force major bottle depots to install real-time counting displays by 2015, a move Mohamed made years ago — and he says it works.

"It should be all over Calgary, because the reputation is not good all around: 'When you come to the bottle depot, you get ripped off,'" he said Monday, referencing the negative impressions shared by many customers.

"With this system, it's an assurance that any confrontation can be sorted right then and there."

As of 2015, bottle depots have been ordered to install the so-called point-of-return systems, which clearly display specific item counts and a bottom-line tally.

Jeff Linton, executive director of the Alberta Bottle Depot Association, which speaks for provincial facilities, told Metro the changes are being driven by the results of customer surveys over the past three years.

"The feedback from the customers is that they walk out with a higher level of confidence, knowing they've been paid the right amount of refund and the process has actually gone quicker," Linton said.

He also touted the mystery shopper program that audits depots' ability to pay an accurate refund.

"Overall accuracy has improved in the last year-and-a-half or two years," he said.

All bottled up

- Right now, 11 of Calgary's 23 bottle depots use some form of real-time counting display.
- Alberta had one of Canada's largest networks of beverage container recycling depots in 2012 with 212 universal facilities and 55 beer-only return centres.
- More than 2 billion drink containers were expected to be cashed-in in 2013, according to the Beverage Container Management Board.

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Not the next premier

Senator Tannas won't seek PC leadership

An Alberta senator says he doesn't have what it would take to turn around the fortunes of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.

Senator Scott Tannas said last week he was considering whether to take a run at the party leadership, but wanted to hear what Albertans thought.

Tannas says people told him the party and government need an overhaul and that it's time for some veteran Tories to go.

He says the next leader will need to have a special amount of energy, vision and humility. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scott Tannas THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Proposal due next March

Edmonton eyes Commonwealth Games

Edmonton wants to host another Commonwealth Games. The city officially threw its hat in the bidding race for the 2022 Games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hospital death

Staff ignored morphine warnings: Report

An inquiry report says staff at a Calgary hospital ignored warnings by Mildred Fahrner's family about giving her morphine, a drug which killed her nearly four years ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Critics accuse CBE of skirting salary freeze

Two per cent hike.
Boost to exempt-staff pay-ranges discussed by trustees in private

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Alberta Teachers Association local President Frank Bruseker was among those to raise questions about a boost to pay ranges for Calgary Board of Education exempt staff. METRO FILE

Critics were quick to cry foul Monday after learning Calgary public-school trustees approved a two per cent hike to salary ranges for non-union staff, which includes nearly 30 senior officials.

Metro has learned the vote occurred March 18 after the Calgary Board of Education had already learned it would need to find tens of millions in savings or dip heavily into its reserves to offset a provincial funding shortfall initially pegged at $31 million but later revised to $27.7 million.

Discussion of the pay-range bumps occurred in private after a public meeting the same day, but a review of the meeting minutes indicates only trustee chair Sheila Taylor opposed the move, while trustee Trina Hurdman was not present for the vote. Trustees say their governing procedures prevent them from discussing matters deliberated in private.

The increase to the pay ranges does not necessarily mean that all union exempt staff will see a hike in their pay, but finance experts made aware of the increase said it's conceivable that at least those at the bottom of the range — likely those newest members of the organization — would immediately cash in.

Derek Fildebrandt with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation said the boost could also leave the 200 total CBE staff not represented by a union in line for sweeter increases down the road. He also challenged the CBE's claim in March 2013 that salaries for "senior leaders" had been frozen.

"If pay's not frozen, it's not a pay freeze," Fildebrandt said.

Last year, trustees came under fire from a slew of critics, including Alberta Education Minister Jeff Johnson, after green-lighting a $1.5-million raise package for the same group of exempt staff. In the end, officials said only $830,000 of the money allotted for the raises was used.

At the time, trustee vice-chair Lynn Ferguson said the hike was necessary to keep the CBE's incentives on pace with other organizations in a competitive job market.

But when asked multiple times about the pay-range bump approved this month, the board would only point back to its March 2013 indicating the senior-leader pay freeze.

Frank Bruseker, head of the Alberta Teachers Association local, agreed this year's pay-range boost is not as significant as last year's, but noted his members locked into a contract agreement with the province that sees three years of frozen salary grids followed by a two per cent hike in the fourth year and a one per cent lump sum.

"We've done our bit … it's optics, it's the principle, it's leadership," Bruseker said of the increase. "It's walking the walk, not just talking the talk."

Pay grids

- Last year, the CBE did publish its exempt-staff pay report.
- Superintendents were at the top end of the pay scale with a salary range set from $214,167 to 282,700. Now, that range will be bumped up two per cent.
- When CBE communications staff were asked if the exempt-pay report put before trustees would be made public this time around, an emailed response stated, "If it is a public report, it will be released."

Council. Call for campaign finance reform rejected

Campaign finance reform was shot down at city council Monday, with most councillors rejecting a proposal to lobby the province for stricter rules on donations and spending ahead of municipal elections.

Coun. Druh Farrell put forward the motion as an "opening salvo" in what she predicted would be a long battle to bring the province's lax campaign-finance laws in line with the kinds of rules that are common in most of the rest of the country.

"We've been operating in a wild-west scenario for far too long and it's got to stop," she said.

Many councillors agreed but did not agree with her specific proposal, and several wanted to defer the matter to a committee meeting at a later date.

Farrell herself supported putting the issue on the back burner, but the deferral was defeated by an 8-6 vote, leaving her original motion to also be defeated.

Coun. Sean Chu voted against all aspects of the plan, saying new candidates in municipal campaigns need to have deep pockets.

"We all know it's extremely difficult and hard to knock out an incumbent without sufficient finance," he said.

"As an incumbent now, I love this motion, because I think it's self-serving — it will be good for me next time. But, based on principle, I cannot support this." ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Volunteer loses surveys done on street-park pilot

The city distributed this flyer before shutting down 10 Street last August to establish a temporary street park. COURTESY CITY OF CALGARY

Calgary's $60,000 pop-up park experiment faced fresh criticism Monday in light of revelations a binder containing visitor-completed questionnaires was misplaced after last summer's two-week event.

A council committee is slated Tuesday to review a staff report on the street park (or s-PARK) pilot project. The 10-page report acknowledges the review had to be done using anecdotal feedback after a volunteer lost the visitor surveys.

Coun. Sean Chu chuckled when informed of the flub: "Oh really?"

"I do trust in administration to come out with the report," Chu said. "But it would be definitely better if we had written evidence as well."

The project shut down a section of 10 Street SW for two weeks last summer for a community gathering space that featured street painting, swing-dance lessons and food trucks.

Project manager and author Dawn Thome defended her volunteers, insisting she was "very comfortable" with the report's positive findings.

"There was enough anecdotal evidence from the staff and the volunteers who were down there — I don't think we would've heard anything different," Thome said.

Coun. Ward Sutherland questioned whether the anecdotal evidence "was supportive of what really happened and what people really think."

"It was very expensive to do," he said, adding wryly, "It was a nice $60,000 party."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi and city councillors previously questioned the project's location as it brought on hefty parking and road closure costs. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Albertan's hunt for Bigfoot hits prime time

Strangely, no sightings. Survivorman joined on for harrowing trek

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Trees torn from their roots, missing apples and strange whooping noises coming from the deep recesses of the forest. But alas: no sightings of Bigfoot.

Those were the results of a three-day trek undertaken by TV's famed Survivorman Les Stroud and renowned Alberta Bigfoot hunter Todd Standing in August and September of last year.

Their adventure was condensed into two TV episodes aired in Canada on the Travel and Escape networks on March 19 and 26. The show will also make its debut in the U.S. on the Discovery Channel on April 9.

Stroud plays the role of skeptic through much of the show but admits he had cold shivers down his spine after hearing a series of strange noises in the dark while camped out in an undisclosed area somewhere near Nordegg, Alta.

"I know what I heard yesterday and I can't explain it," the seasoned survivalist tells the camera the morning after. "Not within normal explanations."

Standing said Stroud has full intentions of returning for a more prolonged search in the future. During the screenings, Stroud did appear awestruck as the pair stumbled across a series of trees carefully placed to form what Standing claims to be symbols or some form of Bigfoot communication.

Survivorman Les Stroud, left, and Alberta researcher Todd Standing in a clip from their televised search for the elusive Bigfoot. COURTESY TODD STANDING

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PCs end 2013 deep in debt

The Progressive Conservatives are almost $1 million deep into a financial hole, while the Wildrose have a hefty war chest, according to the latest filings.

Financial reports that Elections Alberta posted online Monday show the Tories raised $2.2 million last year but still ended with a $136,248 deficit for 2013. That number, added to the rest of their financial picture, leaves the party $946,000 in the red.

The Wildrose, on the other hand, ended 2013 with a $27,000 surplus, after pulling in $2.3 million in donations. Adding that to the rest of their financial position, they have $430,000 in the bank ready for the next election.

PC president Jim McCormick was not available to speak. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"(The PCs) are running the finances of their party the same way they run the finances of the province," said Wildrose MLA Rob Anderson.

Anderson said the financial picture, combined with bad polling numbers, is another sign the government is on its way out. "I've never seen the PC party to ever be this weak."

The Liberals ended 2013 with $50,000 in the bank, and the NDP ended the year nearly $300,000 in debt.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON

Apples and oranges?

Alta.'s traffic-court plan a lie: Lawyer

Criminal lawyers say the Alberta government is misleading the public about the need to revamp the traffic court system. The province is suggesting that, instead of going to court to dispute a ticket, the case should be heard by an adjudicator. Ian Savage of the Calgary Defence Lawyers Association says traffic court operates as a completely separate entity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2013 Calgary Stampede.

Man awaits sentence for threat of mass murder

A man who has admitted he threatened to kill hundreds of people at last year's Calgary Stampede is to be sentenced Thursday.

Patrick Deegan, 29, pleaded guilty in January to uttering death threats, possession of unauthorized firearms and two counts of breaching conditions.

According to an agreed statement of facts, Deegan admitted he sent an email to the Calgary Fire Department on May 26, 2013.

The email warned there was going to be an attack at the Stampede and that there would be many casualties. The email prompted an investigation.

Court heard police found an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, a Lee Enfield bolt-action rifle and a Norinco semi-automatic rifle at the home of Deegan's parent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Australian PM pledges to continue search

Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3 Orion's captain, Wing Commander Rob Shearer, scans the southern Indian Ocean Monday while looking for evidence of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. Although it has been slow, difficult and frustrating so far, the search for the plane is nowhere near the point of being scaled back, Australia's prime minister pledged Monday. The three-week hunt has turned up no signs of the Boeing 777, which vanished March 8 with 239 people bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. ROB GRIFFITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia sees 'virtue' of pact, Baird says

Tough diplomacy.
After Crimea debacle, expert warns Canada should have its eye on Arctic claims

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says he hopes Russia has seen the "virtue" of diplomacy to resolve the crisis in Ukraine, while a defence expert warns that Canada should be paying more attention to Russia's claims in the Arctic.

Baird, speaking in Chisinau, Moldova, sounded hopeful about talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Paris, aimed at diffusing tension in eastern Europe.

"We believe that Russia has apparently now seen the virtue of a diplomatic pact and equivalent steps in positive action," Baird said at a joint news conference with Moldova's foreign minister.

"Frankly speaking, the actions of the Russian Federation will speak more loudly than its words."

He again called on Moscow to withdraw troops from Crimea and along the borders of eastern Ukraine.

Russia laid out a tough set of conditions for a diplomatic settlement, proposals that would radically alter the way Ukraine is governed and administered by making regions more autonomous.

Baird met with a series of senior government ministers in Moldova, a country squeezed between Ukraine and Romania, and assured them Canada strongly believes in the country's territorial integrity.

But defence expert Rob Huebert of the University of Calgary says the Harper government should be paying closer attention to Canada's own yet-to-be-defined border with Russia in the Arctic.

His warning comes after a report published in Moscow last week saying further militarization in the Arctic that would challenge Russia's preeminence in the region is a "red line" that the West dare not cross.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Although Canada and Russia — as well as several other Arctic countries — are engaged in an international process, Huebert said Putin's recent annexation of Crimea in defiance of international law raises the question of whether Russia would respect a border decision that doesn't go in its favour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see Russian President Vladimir Putin sing Blueberry Hill by Fats Domino.

PUTIN: PRESIDENT, PUGILIST, PERFORMER, PSYCHOPATH?

Metro asks a Toronto psychology professor what the Crimean crisis, hostile diplomatic relations and rehearsed public spectacles say about the Russian president's mental health

DYLAN C. ROBERTSON/FOR METRO IN TORONTO
toronto@metronews.ca

The many images of Putin: From top, in the mountains of the Siberian Tyva region; playing with his dogs Yume and Buffy; flying in a motorized hang glider alongside a Siberian white crane. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

From a shirtless fishing trip to riding with biker gangs, Russian President Vladimir Putin is known for his eccentric media appearances.

When armed men in military uniforms arrived in Crimea, Putin claimed they were not Russian soldiers, despite coming from Russia in the country's military trucks. Last Saturday, Putin's former economic adviser told a Swedish newspaper that the leader aims to take back the Baltic countries and even Finland.

As Putin steps up Russia's Arctic military presence, analysts are wondering whether his rhetoric is simply political posturing, or if he's lost his mind.

In the midst of the Crimean crisis last month, German Chancellor Angela Merkel reportedly told U.S. President Barack Obama she wasn't sure whether Putin "was still in touch with reality" and wondered if he was "living in another world."

So is Putin mentally unstable? Probably not, according to Steve Joordens, a psychology professor at the University of Toronto's Scarborough campus.

"You don't run part of the KGB and go on to lead a country without thinking straight," Joordens told Metro.

While it's impossible to evaluate someone's mental state from afar, Joordens believes Putin is instead tapping into the psyche of ordinary Russians, while manipulating other countries. Joordens sees three main themes:

A strong, manly image

Whether taking to the cockpit of a fighter jet or spinning out a Formula One race car at almost 240 km/h, Putin often appears to be a risk-taking stuntman.

Joordens says Putin is likely trying to show himself as a strong leader of a strong country after a rapid decline in territory and influence.

"Russia was one of two superpowers in its glory days, and it's lost a lot of self-esteem on a country level," he said. "Putin's attempt to show bravado is to preserve a sense of self-esteem."

Joordens notes that Putin portrays Russia as a global power faced with a common, external enemy: the West.

"That's potentially dangerous," said Joordens, who is cautious about drawing analogies with the Second World War. "Germany was also weak, but they had a strong leader. If you do that too much, there's potential to cause a lot of trouble."

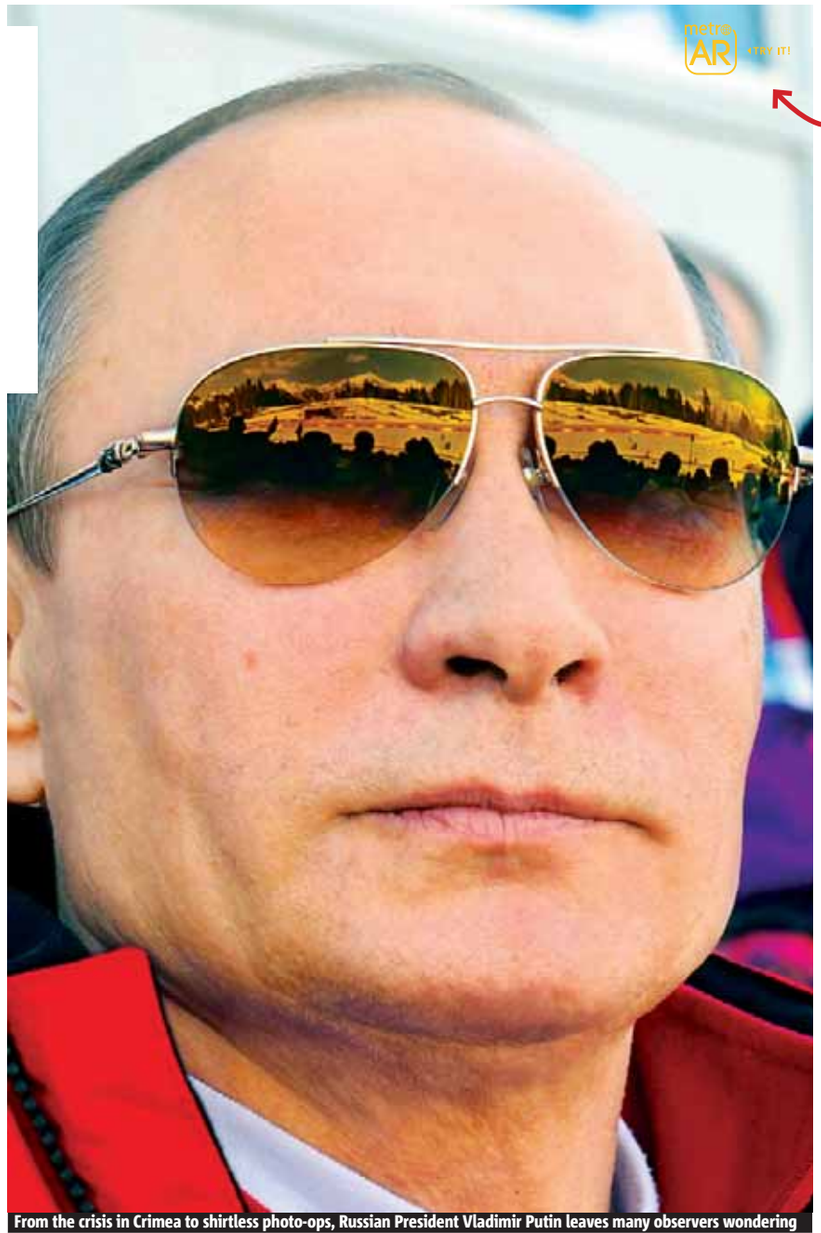
Diplomatic daredevil

"It's a question of how far (Putin) will take the sabre-rattling."
U of T psychology professor Steve Joordens

Double-speak

No one seems to know what's next for Ukraine, with Russia's foreign minister claiming his government has "no intention" of invading eastern Ukraine while they continue to station more troops at the border. "It's a classic poker technique," said Joordens. "Unpredictability is a source of strength."

But Putin also shows his softer side, posing with his dog Buffy. "He does like to surprise," said Joordens. "People use animals to make themselves look more compassionate."



From the crisis in Crimea to shirtless photo-ops, Russian President Vladimir Putin leaves many observers wondering what's really going on in his head. MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Putin revealed himself to be a Paul McCartney fan, inviting the singer to Moscow in 2003 and giving him a personal tour of the Kremlin. He also sang the Fats Domino classic Blueberry Hill at a charity gala in 2010.

"It's a way of showing the West that 'Hey, he's one of us.' He keeps everybody guessing."

A hostile neighbour

Putin seems to be egging on Western countries, despite signing agreements against military action and carefully building up Russia's image through the Olympics.

"He knows that no one wants to go to war with Russia."

Joordens suspects that Putin saw Ukraine's uprising as a risk to Russia's influence. Joordens uses the analogy of a hostile neighbour.

"You might have someone causing animosity and friction around them, but they don't care because their family is the top priority," he said.

Some of the many legends of Vladimir Putin

Shooting a tiger

On a visit to Siberia in 2008, a tiger escaped from its cage and lunged toward journalists. Putin quickly grabbed a tranquilizer gun and subdued the beast in one shot.

He then helped measure its teeth before placing a satellite transmitter around its neck. He attached a similar collar to a polar bear in 2010, and also released a leopard into a Sochi-area sanctuary.

Putin admitted in 2012 that all these stunts were staged, with each animal brought in from zoos or sanctuaries where they had been trained.

The Judo master

During a 2003 visit to Japan, Putin upstaged Judo instructors, throwing his guests to the ground with special moves in front of the Japanese press. Putin published a book about the sport, saying that "Judo teaches self-control, the ability to feel the moment, to see the opponent's strengths and weaknesses."

Hanging out with biker gangs

When Obama came to Moscow in 2009, he met with then-president Dmitry Medvedev for five hours, while Putin got a brief press conference. A dejected Putin took to the streets with Hell's Angels-style motorcycle club Night Wolves, tying up traffic and stealing the spotlight.

Medical marijuana.
Future of pot hazy as feds launch legal challenge

A legal medical marijuana facility in B.C. March 21.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal government will contest an injunction that allows people to continue to grow medical marijuana while a full legal challenge plays out in the courts.

It is the latest salvo in a series of legal actions over how the government administers its medical pot program.

Earlier this month, Federal Court Judge Michael Manson ruled that patients currently licensed to grow their own marijuana would be permitted to produce the drug even after new regulations banning the practice take effect Tuesday.

The judge granted an application from medical marijuana patients seeking a temporary injunction to preserve the status quo until their constitutional challenge of the new system could be heard.

The government said Monday it will ask the Federal Court of Appeal to overturn the injunction.

Under the existing federal program, thousands of people have licences to cultivate marijuana for personal use to help ease painful symptoms of conditions such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

The government says growing marijuana at home poses hazards including mould, fire, toxic chemicals and the threat of home invasion by criminals.

It plans to allow only select commercial producers to grow marijuana under "secure and sanitary conditions" for distribution through the mail, in dried form, to medically approved patients.

Health Minister Rona Ambrose made it clear in a statement Monday that the only reason her department administers a program is a 14-year-old court ruling that said there must be reasonable access to a legal source of marijuana for medical purposes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

First-class letters

Through rain, sleet and snow ... for a buck a stamp

The cost of mailing a first-class letter within Canada went up Monday — by 35 per cent.

Canada Post is raising the price of a stamp to 85 cents, up from 63 cents.

While the new price applies when buying stamps in bulk, it will cost $1 to buy a single first-class stamp.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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UN orders a stop to scenes like this

A minke whale is unloaded at a port after a whaling for scientific purposes in Kushiro, in the northernmost main island of Hokkaido in September 2013. The International Court of Justice on Monday ordered a temporary halt to Japan's Antarctic whaling program, ruling that it is not for scientific purposes as the Japanese had claimed. In hopes of ending whaling in the icy Southern Ocean, Australia sued Japan at the UN's highest court for resolving disputes between nations. KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

There is no such thing as a new idea?

R&D. Judges must decide if Mark Twain was right when he argued we just make 'new and curious combinations' of existing ideas

Is it too easy for high-tech companies to patent inventions that are not really new, but simply old ideas blended with computer wizardry?

The Supreme Court in the U.S. wrestled with that question Monday as justices considered making it tougher for the government to issue patents for computer software.

The outcome could send tremors through an industry that touches virtually every sector of the economy, from gadgets on smartphones to advances in anti-lock brakes.

The issue has divided the nation's technology giants, with companies like Microsoft Corp. and IBM warning that new restrictions could nullify thousands of existing patents that are the product of billions in research and development. On the other side, firms including Google, Facebook and Netflix say the free flow of software patents has become a "plague" on the industry, blocking companies from promoting innovation.

The justices weighed arguments in a case involving Alice Corp., an Australian financial company that in the 1990s patented a computer program to reduce the risk in financial transactions. The software allows a neutral third party to make sure all parties to a trade have lived up to their obligations.

CLS Bank International challenged the patent as invalid, arguing that Alice merely took a concept that's been around since ancient times and programmed it to run through a computer.

A decision is expected by June.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seacrest out ... for now

BlackBerry has won a preliminary injunction barring sales of a Typo Products LLC iPhone keyboard attachment it claims infringes on two of its patents.

- A judge said BlackBerry had a "likelihood" of proving the $99 US physical keyboard, which can be clipped to some versions of Apple Inc.'s touch screen iPhone 5, violates its intellectual property rights.
- Los Angeles-based Typo, co-founded by entrepreneur Laurence Hallier and American Idol host Ryan Seacrest, said it plans to appeal the decision.

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IS THIS A SICK POTTY JOKE?

How do you flush a toilet?

You might think this question has a pretty obvious answer, but a recent discussion with some friends of mine has left me questioning everything I thought I knew about bathroom etiquette. It would seem that it's now standard practice to use your foot to flush the toilet when using a public washroom.

Am I the only person who didn't get the Health Canada memo on this new procedure? I had no idea that we were no longer using our hands to perform this perfunctory task.

Apparently this foot-flushing technique isn't just the invention of a neurotic minority. A 2013 study found that 64 per cent of North Americans operate the toilet flusher with their shoe-clad foot in order to avoid coming into contact with germs in public restrooms.

I can't understand why North Americans are so precious when it comes to personal hygiene. I happen to have an incredibly strong immune system in spite of my daily skin-to-toilet contact. My resilience probably has a lot to do with my complete indifference towards germs, a carefree attitude that I inherited from my father who is the type of man who will marinate a raw chicken breast with his bare hands and then lick the BBQ sauce off his fingertips.

SHE SAYS

Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

Despite all the fearmongering out there, I just can't bring myself to be afraid of something I can't see. I'm a firm believer in the five-second rule (or even the two-minute rule) and will gladly share a beverage with another person as long as we're on a first-name basis. I ride public transit, double-dip my chips and once ate a chocolate Easter bunny out of the garbage (it was partially wrapped, in my defence).

I'm not completely uncivilized of course. If someone offers me hand sanitizer I will use it because I know that is the polite thing to do and I adhere to the government-mandated arm-sneeze to protect all the anxious worrywarts out there.

Germs? Who needs 'em

Despite all the fearmongering out there, I just can't bring myself to be afraid of something I can't see.

It's actually these extremists— those who obsessively clean their countertops with pungent antibacterial wipes and scrub their hands like they're prepping for surgery — who seem to get struck down by the common cold so frequently. I assume their bodies are having bad reactions to all the antiseptic fumes and high levels of neuroses.

I know there's nothing glamorous about using a public bathroom, but karate kicking a toilet to avoid touching it with your hands just seems outrageously paranoid to me. If you're trying to avoid all of the infinitesimal microorganisms that are out there just waiting to latch onto you, you're just going to worry yourself sick.

Follow Jessica Napier on Twitter @MetroSheSays

ZOOM

Art that tests the waters

COURTESY JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR

Sub-aquatic museum

For the past five years, British sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor has transformed seabeds off Mexico and Grenada into underwater art sites. Taylor, 39, sculpts life-size statues, then submerges them at depths of nine metres. His work is featured in a new book The Underwater Museum, published by Chronicle Books. METRO

Q & A with Taylor

How did you come up with the underwater sculpture?
I started to explore how I could adopt a more conservationist approach in my sculpture. Being a diver and watching how we are losing swathes of coral reefs, I felt inspired to take action. An artificial reef — where marine life (and tourists) gravitate towards objects — seemed the perfect way for art to help the planet.

Help? How exactly?
The reef encourages fish and coral to live and grow there, while the human statues are linked to the concept of climate change. This art-meets-reef — a sort of visual regeneration – can instill a sense of hope and recovery.

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MetroTube

Howls in the Himalayas

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

For most of the country, spring made its long-awaited debut in the past couple weeks — hang in there, Atlantic Canada.

Which, of course, means that all dreary winter dreaming about warm exotic places is easing a bit. Though, as that mental fog lifts, we find ourselves regretting the hastily booked Treacherous Himalayan Roads Tour.

Scan this photo of the Himalayas to watch the video of some courageous travellers who skirt the mountain cliff. GETTY IMAGES

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See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a photo gallery of Emma Watson from her start in Harry Potter to Noah.

SCENE

DVD review

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Director. Adam McKay

Stars. Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, Paul Rudd

I quote Brian Fantana's promise about Sex Panther cologne: "60 per cent of the time, it works every time."

So does this long-awaited comedy sequel that supposedly nobody wanted — except for millions of fans of Ron Burgundy, Will Ferrell's puffed-up TV newscaster, and his Channel 4 teammates: scented news sleuth Fantana (Paul Rudd), thunderdolt weatherman Brick Tamland (Steve Carell) and sports clod Champ "Whammy!" Kind (David Koechner).

Now that it's here, again directed by Adam McKay and co-written with Ferrell, it must be said that Anchorman has gone from being kind of a big deal to being kind of a bloated deal.

Anchorman 2 nevertheless amuses, with your personal hilarity meter likely rating it higher if you enjoy seeing beloved characters acting even goofier.

And if you get the Blu-ray version, the abundant extras include an almost entirely new cut of the film, with a promise of 763 new jokes. **PETER HOWELL**

Emma Watson moves beyond Hermione

All grown-up. The star of new release Noah talks to Metro about her movie career, and finding a work-life balance

GABRIELA ACOSTA SILVA
Metro World News

Emma Watson with costar Douglas Booth in Noah. HANDOUT

Hermione is all grown-up now. Almost three years on since the Harry Potter movie franchise ended, Emma Watson is out to prove there is life beyond Hogwarts. "I still need to show people what I can do outside of Harry Potter. I don't think I'm quite there yet, but I'm getting there," the star of Noah tells Metro Latin America at the Spanish premiere of the new movie in Madrid.

There's been a lot of buzz surrounding Noah, both good and bad.
The producers did a lot of research and came up with many different versions of the script. The biggest problem is that in the Bible, Noah's story is like half a page. So basically, we made a three-hour movie out of three paragraphs.

Your character Ila has dreadlocks. How did that come about?
We decided to use hair extensions, which was actually quite difficult because at the time, my real hair was really short. The good thing is that we didn't have showers or bathrooms on set, so it worked out fine in the end.

How would you describe the movie?
Personally, I find Noah's story a little bit cheesy. But when the screenplay is written by someone like Darren Aronofsky you know you're going to be doing something special. I'd say the movie is more of a study of people who find themselves in a futuristic, apocalyptic world.

What is your biggest challenge right now?
Prove that I am no longer Hermione. I need to be able to be good, bad, bold or innocent in whatever role I take on. But I still need to show people what I can do outside of Harry Potter. I don't think I'm quite there yet, but I'm getting there.

What's the best thing about being in your early 20s?
I'm no longer scared to take on new roles. I'm more confident and more focused now than I used to be, and I've also learned that not everything in life is about work. Fame has the power to blur reality. That's why I chose to take a step back and go study, and gave myself the space to think about what I really wanted to do. Right now I've gone back into the acting world with a different mindset.

You're studying as well as working. How is university going?
I'll be graduating from Brown University in May and I'm glad I took the time out to study. I have the rest of my life to make movies and I feel like I learned a lot just by living alone in another country. I feel like I'm at the stage where I now have a healthy balance between my professional and personal life.

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S.E. HALL HOLDS UP TO 100 PEOPLE

James Van Der Beek, left, in Friends with Better Lives. CONTRIBUTED

Van Der Beek likes new sitcom better live

Keeping up with the Joneses used to require a peek over the white picket fence. Thanks to social media, you now have to post equally fabulous vacation photos on Instagram, bake cookies that are nothing short of Pinterest-worthy, and make sure Nike+ is keeping everyone on Facebook aware of your running progress. At least, that's the premise of the new CBS sitcom Friends with Better Lives.

"The show examines friendship through that grass-is-always-greener lens," says Dana Klein, creator and executive producer of the show. "I mean, I can barely open my computer without feeling like I failed in a million different ways. Someone's got the perfect family, the perfect kids, the perfect job, the perfect body. It's human nature to want what we don't have."

"I've got all those things," interjects star James Van Der Beek. It's an offhand joke, but one that exemplifies the show's biting humour about modern friendship. Van Der Beek's favourite change in his return to television is playing in a new format. "The great thing about this is the live audience aspect," he says. "I started out in theatre, so it's a lot of fun. I feel like the audience kind of keeps you honest. It's old school. It's an old school sitcom. You either get a laugh or you don't."

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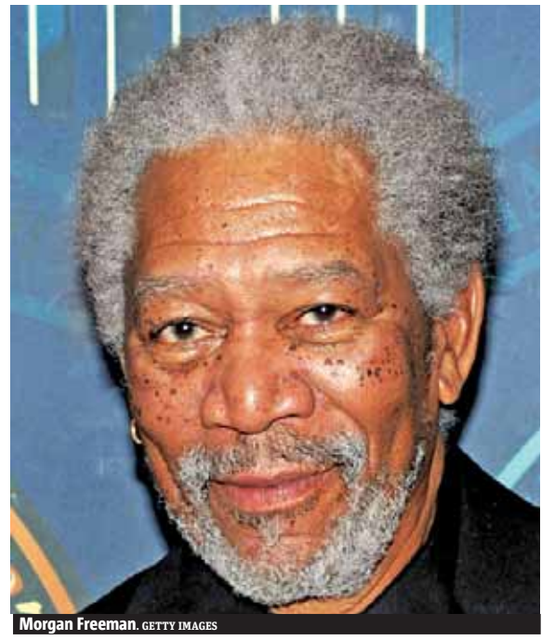
Freeman demurs on fate of lemurs

Island of Lemurs. Morgan Freeman is the voice of a new nature documentary about Madagascar's famous creatures

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



Morgan Freeman. GETTY IMAGES

Morgan Freeman steps back behind the microphone for Island of Lemurs: Madagascar, giving another nature documentary his March of the Penguins voice-over treatment. Only the gig left him with more questions than answers, like: Do people in Madagascar eat lemurs? He got a sobering answer at the film's press conference, learning that due to worsening poverty on the island nation, people are actually eating the adorable creatures. So naturally we wanted to talk more about that with him.

So people are actually eating lemurs now.
It's not f—ing OK. Yeah, people are poor. I don't know what we're going to do about that. There are too many of us, I think. And because there are too many of us we are going to continue to grow, and we grow even faster because population growth is exponential. If you've got two people creating babies, next thing you know you've got four creating babies, and then eight and then 16 and then … So it's a problem. And I just read about how these countries get really concerned if the population starts to decline because they suffer economically.

With Japan, right?
Yeah, yeah. They're concerned about the levelling off of the population growth. As long as your population is growing, I suppose, you're getting a bigger consumer base. That's not really what we need, is it?

It's not a topic people like talking about, though, population control.
Well, they won't until it's too late. And we won't know it's too late until it's too late. We're at 7.3 billion — probably more than that now. And as I read it, in about 15 to 18 years there will be 8 billion.

What do we do with all of them?
Well, eventually there just won't be enough food. We're turning everything on the planet into food for humans. Daniel Quinn, who wrote Ishmael, he talks about the difference in humans between "takers" and "leavers." Leavers are those people who live simplest — the forest people of Borneo, the leaf people of the Amazon, the Tasadays in the Philippines. These are people who still live in the forest, and they don't require much. They don't have cars. S—, I've got three cars and an SUV.

That's a lot of cars.
Yeah. My point being, we're takers. We're just gobbling up s—. And we're encouraged to do it. It'll be too late before we know it's too late.

Have you thought about ways you yourself can pare things down?
Well, one of my cars is a Tesla, so I've reduced my carbon footprint somewhat. They're awesome, awesome cars. Very, very nice. A technological marvel. It's keyless — but you have to have a key.

It senses you.
Yeah. And it tells you it senses your presence. Door handles come out, car lights up, it's like, "Oh! It's happy to see me!"

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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Bachelor stars get no love from Atlantic City

PAT
HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

Atlantic City didn't have the kindest of receptions for Bachelor star Juan Pablo Galavis and his girlfriend, Nikki Ferrell, who came to the resort town for a special appearance at The Pool After Dark at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City on Saturday night.

Galavis and Ferrell appeared on the red carpet around midnight, and the locals were angry. Galavis was originally to sit at a VIP table next to the stage until someone (it is not known who this local hero was) threw an aluminum beer bottle at him. After that, the organizers moved him to a cabana area for his own safety.

According to reports (read: the publicist who sent me this), Ferrell joined Galavis in the VIP cabana area where they "kissed" and "held hands" until around 3 a.m, hopefully fulfilling all contractual engagements.

Read: The two didn't stick around for that long, and once they collected their paycheque, flew to Miami the next day.

One part Franco didn't play was Lohan's lover

Lindsay Lohan

James Franco doesn't say the whole list is bogus, but he definitely doesn't think his name belongs on it, insisting that he has never gotten intimate with the troubled starlet.

In an interview with Los Angeles Magazine, Franco defends his decision to write about other celebrities in his new book of poetry.

"I didn't write anything bad about them," he says. "And Lindsay herself has told lies about me with her 'people she's slept with' list. So I feel like what I said is much less than what she's said."

Twitter

@ChloeGMoretz
When u only get 2 1/2 hours of sleep

@mcgregor_ewan
Thanks for all the B'dy wishes. You've made a newly 43 year old very happy. Cheers the noo.

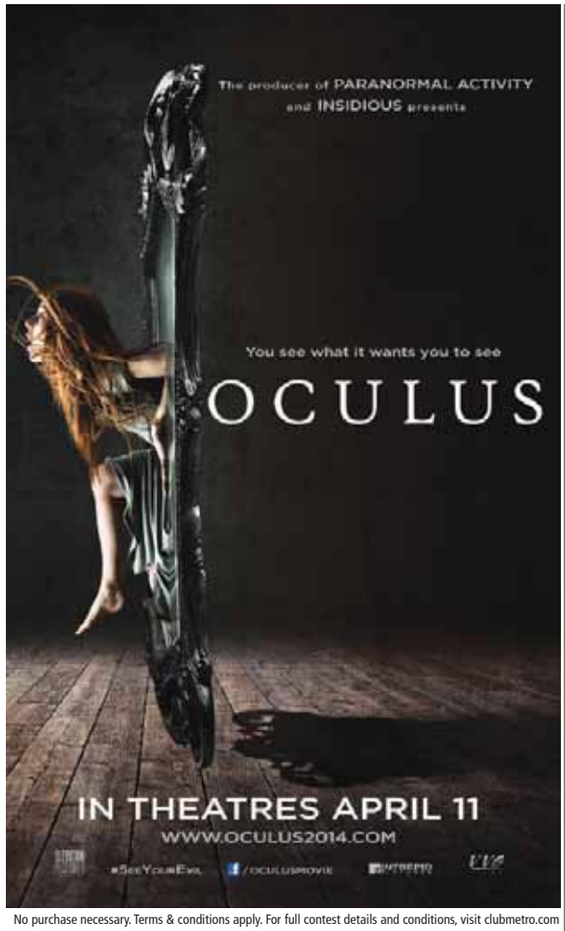
@EvaLongoria
Just realized we did a little pilot called Desperate Housewives 10 years ago! March 2004!

Have you Heard? Depp is wearing a 'chick's ring'

Johnny Depp showed off a diamond engagement ring that he called a "chick's ring" on Monday - indirectly confirming rumours of his engagement to actress Amber Heard.

Asked whether he was engaged, the Pirates of the Caribbean star replied, "The fact that I'm wearing a chick's ring on my finger is probably a dead giveaway. Not very subtle." He laughed as he lifted up his left hand and displayed a single diamond on a band around his ring finger.

His comments follow months of unconfirmed reports of his engagement to actress Heard, 27, who starred alongside Kevin Costner in 3 Days to Kill released in the U.S. earlier this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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LIFE

Putting a face to autism

National Autism Awareness Month. April is a time to educate the public about everything autism. A mom offers a glimpse into an evening with her autistic daughter

LESLEE HERSH
life@metronews.ca

Lauren, 13, was diagnosed with autism at age 4. SUBMITTED

It's Friday and the nanny has left for the weekend. Lauren is submerged in the bath, singing aloud, happy as a clam. She is always happy, and that is my salvation. All we are supposed to want for our children is for them to happy, isn't it?

I realize I forgot her PJs and a fresh towel, so I go to retrieve them from the closet in her bedroom. I come back to small drips and puddles along the bathroom floor. The shuttered bathroom window is now firmly closed, as is the vanity drawer, both of which were inadvertently left slightly open. She is lying contentedly back in the bathtub and could stay there entertaining herself for hours if I let her. Everything is in perfect order, as it must be, or chaos might ensue.

"Write down calendar!" she cries. I transcribe a visual daily calendar with activities on a chalkboard in her room, each upcoming event identified — from mealtimes and snacks to baths and sleep. This is critically important to her, so I use it as a tool to motivate her to focus on getting herself dressed. "First PJs, then calendar," I tell her. For the reward, she obliges.

The telephone rings. "Goooooodbyyye!" she shrieks before I even answer.

Lauren does not like when my attention is focused on anything but her. I tell her it is Grandma, and ask if she would like to say hello. "Eeeyeeeessss", she replies. The conversation ensues: "hiGrandmahowareyoulamgood" and is followed by a series of "eeeyeeesses" in response to unheard questions. After a quick "Goodbye, Grandpa" (who is really still Grandma), I take the phone to speak, and the "gooodbyyyes" start again, over and over until the phone is set properly back in its cradle.

I fill out her calendar while she grabs her Magna Doodle and begins furiously scribbling to calm herself down further. This is her "stim." Others living with autism — a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and verbal and nonverbal communication, and by restricted, repetitive or stereotyped behaviour — like to rock back and forth or find other repeated actions to calm down.

"I need hugs, Mom." The squeezing motion calms her again, and she reaches for her cherished iPad and searches YouTube. For the next several hours, she positions herself in her usual way, deep within the folds of her beanbag chair, and repeatedly watches Barney, Baby Einstein, and Sesame Street episodes that she has watched nightly for years.

Next, she carefully inspects their video box covers that she has managed to source on eBay, because this too is very important to her. She has memorized every single word and song from every one of these YouTube videos and recites them, in sync with the films. The precision is almost perfect now, but this has taken several years of dedicated practice, because she cannot even carry on a conversation yet. She is 13.

I take away the iPad and prepare her for bed. Again, she babbles out loud to herself and carries on like this easily for the next two hours. She laughs out loud and then sings, completely immersed with the images and voices in her head. She laughs again when she hears Rihanna and Eminem sing they are friends with the monsters in their head, as if she understands. I suspect she does. She loves music more than anyone I know. Sometimes I stop when I think of her most favourite songs because I am afraid to believe my own thoughts.

If she does understand, and my desperate hope for "normalcy" returns, will it be crushed again by professionals telling me it is only wishful thinking?

The songs? Firework by Katy Perry, and Born This Way by Lady Gaga. Read the lyrics and — although she might not be coherent should you meet her, and certainly could not share her thoughts with you — please be the judge.

Then, try to understand the frustration that she lives with day after day, night after night, and year after year.

That is the face of autism.

For your phone

Strava iPhone/Android; free)

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See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a video of Nutri-bites columnist Theresa Albert visiting a mushroom farm.

Creamy comfort without the cream

Quick Cream of Mushroom Soup.

Forego tradition and make this filling soup with new ingredients

THERESA ALBERT
myfriendinfood.com

No one will ever know that there is yogurt and tofu in this soup instead of cream.

Together, they are excellent and filling protein.

The only trick to this soup is to keep the temperature at a simmer since boiling will turn the creaminess into graininess and then we are both busted as nutrient hiders. Don't say I didn't warn you!

1. Break shiitake mushrooms into smaller pieces and place in a microwavable bowl with the 2 cups of water. Cover and place in microwave for 3-4 minutes until softened. Set aside

2. Stir cornstarch into the plain Greek yogurt and set the mixture aside.

3. Brown butter in a large pot and add onions, cook for 3 minutes. Add mushrooms and brown over medium high heat for 3-4 minutes.

4. Add pepper, onion powder and stir 2 minutes. Pour reconstituted mushrooms with liquid through a strainer to catch any dirt or sand, add chicken broth and tarragon and bring to a boil to for 5 minutes.

5. Whisk in yogurt mixture and silken tofu.

6. Puree the mixture with a hand wand or in a blender, and top with cheddar when serving in bowls with a warm slice of bread.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Ingredients

- 1 cup dried shiitake mushroom
- 2 cups water
- 1 tbsp cornstarch (or arrowroot powder)
- 1 cup plain, gelatin-free Greek yogurt
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 8 oz (1 package) sliced mushroom
- 2 tsp white pepper
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 2 cups reduced sodium chicken broth
- 1 tsp tarragon
- 6 oz (1 package) silken tofu

This recipe serves four and takes 20 minutes to make. THERESA ALBERT

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

RASCALS SPECIALIZES IN FOOD FOR FIDO

When it comes to pet food one size does not fit all and that's why Rascals Pet Supplies specializes in helping pet owners make the right decision when it comes to their pets.

Experienced and knowledgeable staff with years of customer service experience helps make Rascals Pet Supplies one of the most trusted pet food stores in the city — and it doesn't hurt they have the largest selection of bulk dog biscuits in the city with more than 65 varieties to choose from.

"We've been in the business for 26 years and we've seen a change in food options and increased quality in pet food over the past 10 years, so we're able to help owners choose the right food for their pets," Rascals owner John Iuliani says, adding it is one of Calgary's largest independently owned pet food stores.

"There are a lot of foods out there to choose from, but some pets have food allergies or intolerances and we're able to use our knowledge to work with owners to find what's ideal for their pets."

Rascals Pet Supplies features a large showroom carrying a wide variety of quality and premium pet foods, accessories and supplements for dogs, cats and other small animals including a vast selection of wild bird food.

Rascals only recommend what's best for your pet because as their slogan says, "your pet is family."

ERMOLAEV ALEXANDER/SHUTTERSTOCK

DOGBOXSTUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

'HEALTHY PETS OUR PASSION': OPTIMAL PET FOODS

We all know how important it is to know where your food comes from but it's also important to know what your pets are eating.

That's why Optimal Pet Foods owner Sheila Hammer and her husband Mark started their business specializing in natural and healthy pet food more than four years ago, recently opening a second location.

"Years ago we discovered the common ailments our pets were experiencing had a very strong correlation to their food. We noticed many of our pets became ill and passed on before their time and that's when we discovered it was because of their food," Hammer explains.

"The pet food industry generally uses animal fat waste and by-products that are laced with terrible ingredients that we shouldn't feed our animals because they are unhealthy fillers that are common allergens that cause itching, ear infections, vomiting and digestive issues in many pets."

That's why Optimal Pet Foods specializes in offering a large selection of natural dog, cat and small animal food, including raw food — all without the typical filler including soy, wheat and GMO corn.

"We know that the animals are healthy and happier when they eat the proper food. And healthy pets are our passion."

Optimal Pet Foods is located in Signal Hill in the southwest and in the northwest community of Varsity. For more information, visit optimalpetfoods.com.

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Miguel Cabrera, Robinson Cano and Mike Trout will have to live up to huge expectations after signing a trio of the biggest contracts in the history of baseball. Scan the image with your Metro News app to vote on some of the worst contracts in sports.

4 SPORTS

Metro AR poll results

41% Metro readers voted Norway's multi-coloured Olympic curling pants as the ugliest in our poll of ugly sports uniforms. Here are the rest of the results:

23% Northwestern football (stars and stripes, 2013)

13% Chicago Bulls (St. Patrick's Day green sleeves, 2014)

13% New York Islanders (Capt. Highliner logo, 1995)

10% Blue Jays (with buff bird logo, 2003)

0% Toronto Raptors (purple duds, 1995)

MLB

Expanded replay proves quick and effective early

Major League Baseball launched the expanded replay era Monday, and saw instant results — a pair of missed calls by umpires got fixed fast, without any arguments.

Opening day showed off the game's newest nod to modern technology in a sport that long relied on the eyes of its umps.

Of the first four reviews Monday, none took longer than 2 1/2 minutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays pick up where they left off in Tampa

MLB. Toronto's luck looks to have carried over from 2013 with Reyes injured, Dickey thumped in opener

Rays outfielder Desmond Jennings, left, beats the tag of Toronto Blue Jays catcher Josh Thole to give Tampa Bay a 6-0 lead during the fifth inning of Monday's season opener in St. Petersburg, Fla. CHRIS O'MEARA/GETTY IMAGES

Jose Reyes aggravated an injury, R.A. Dickey struggled and the Toronto Blue Jays ended up with a one-sided loss to Tampa Bay.

David Price took a shutout into the eighth inning and Matt Joyce drove in three runs Monday to help the Rays begin the season with a 9-2 victory over the Blue Jays.

Reyes left the lineup after his first at-bat because of a tight left hamstring. The star shortstop led off the game and was robbed of a hit on a diving catch by Rays centre-fielder Desmond Jennings. He was replaced in the field by Ryan Goins.

"I tried to run a little bit faster between home plate and first base, and I kind of feel my hammy there," Reyes said. "So I have to slow down and get out of the game because I don't want to get any worse."

Reyes missed several games during the final week of spring training with the same problem, and wasn't at 100 per cent for exhibition games Friday and Saturday in Montreal. He will have an MRI and is expected to be put on the 15-day disabled list on Tuesday.

"Irritated the same spot, so that's a concern," Toronto manager John Gibbons said.

Reyes missed 66 games last season after going on the DL April 13 with a sprained left ankle.

Opening day

Rays	Jays
9	2

Price (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits over 7 1/3 innings to beat R.A. Dickey in a matchup of 2012 Cy Young Award winners. The hard-throwing lefty walked one and struck out six before a crowd of 31,042 at Tropicana Field.

"It's really disappointing and frustrating," Dickey said. "You feel like you let a lot of people down. Against David Price, one of the best pitchers in baseball, if you don't match him inning per inning, it's going to be tough to win the game. I put us in a hole early. Walked some guys early, gave up some 0-2 hits with runners in scoring position, and that was the game."

Price limited the Jays to four singles and had only allowed two runners past second base before Maicer Izturis opened the eighth with his second hit of the day. Pinch-hitter Erik Kratz followed with a first-pitch, two-run homer to centrefield. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera agreed Friday to the richest contract in American sports, a $292-million, 10-year deal with the Detroit Tigers. GETTY IMAGES

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Canadian skip Kevin Koe reacts after delivering a throw during a match against Japan at the World Men's Curling Championship at the Capital Gymnasium in Beijing, China, Sunday. ALEXANDER F. YUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Koe wins twice, stands second

Round-robin stage. Recovering from a loss on Sunday, the Canadian skip held his spot behind Norway's Thomas Ulsrud

Canada's Kevin Koe won both of his games at the world men's curling championship on Monday to move into sole possession of second place in the round-robin standings.

Koe started the day with a 9-1 blowout victory over Russia's Evgeny Arkhipov at Capital Indoor Stadium and then came back for a 10-6 win over Jiri Snitil of the Czech Republic in the late draw.

"For sure, you have to pull some games out," said Koe. "We weren't struggling as bad (as on Sunday). The sheet was a lot better than yesterday, but no excuses. The Czechs were playing really well and making some big shots."

Koe, who suffered his only loss to Japan's Yusuke Morozumi on Sunday morning, improved to 4-1 after eight draws. Norway's Thomas Ulsrud was the lone undefeated team at 5-0.

Germany, Japan, Sweden and Switzerland were tied for third place at 3-2 in the 12-team round-robin standings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I was proud of the guys. We really stayed in there, tried to stay positive and keep it close."
Kevin Koe

NBA

Heat sizzle Raptors in Miami

LeBron James scored 32 points, Chris Bosh added 18 and the Miami Heat moved into the top spot in the Eastern Conference with a 93-83 win over the Toronto Raptors on Monday night.

Greivis Vasquez scored 17 points, DeMar DeRozan scored 16 and Jonas Valanciunas finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors. Steve Novak added 13 for Toronto, which lost Kyle Lowry to a sore left knee late in the third quarter after he collided with James.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaving Kansas. Wiggins all set for the NBA draft

Kansas freshman Andrew Wiggins made official Monday what he's been telling folks all along: He's headed to the NBA after his only season with the Jayhawks.

The six-foot-eight forward, who was voted second-team All-America earlier in the day, is expected to go in the top three picks in the June draft. Many believe he could go first overall.

Wiggins certainly had a historic season at Kansas. He averaged a freshman-record 17.1 points and nearly six rebounds per game, and was voted the AP's Big 12 freshman of the year and first-team all-conference. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andrew Wiggins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
The more others try to make you change your mind about something the more you must refuse to be moved. You know what is right and what is wrong, so make your own decision and stick to it.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There is no point getting worked up over something you can't do much about. You may not be able to change things on a social or political level however you can change things on a personal level.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Something you have been worrying about for quite a while will fade in significance today and that's good. But has the cause of the worry actually gone? You need to find out.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If someone you have feelings for seems unresponsive today don't think it means you are drifting apart. Most likely they just need to spend some time alone to think things through.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may want to be friends with everyone but you need to be discerning. There are some people who you will never get along with because you are on different emotional and intellectual levels.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Others will be generous with you if you are generous with them. Let friends and colleagues know you are willing to work alongside them. Teamwork is essential now, in all areas.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There may be a thousand and one things you want to do today but Jupiter, planet of success but also excess, warns you must not to take on too much. Ask loved ones nicely to do more things for you.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Some of what you hear over the next 24 hours may be less than complimentary but it is of no real importance, so don't let it upset your equilibrium.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may hear something about your money situation that brings a smile to your face today but don't be too hasty. There is a chance you are being misled, so don't go on a spending spree.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something you have been working on for some time needs to be left alone for a while. You have got so involved with it that other areas of your life are being neglected.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is no point getting annoyed about things beyond your control – you know that already. So why are you allowing what is a minor event to cause major shockwaves in your life? Get over it – now.

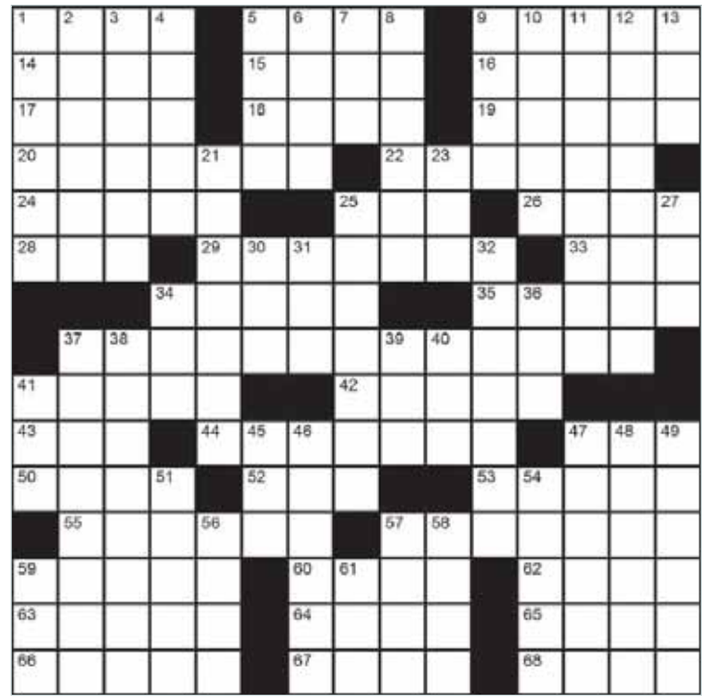
Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You have some important personal issues to deal with, so let your friends know they may be seeing less of you for a while. Get your emotional life in order, then go and have fun.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

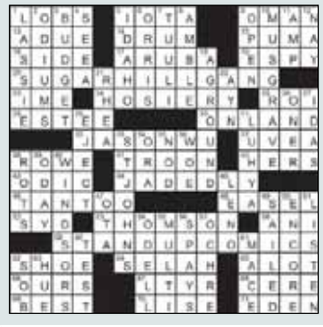
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Star__ Tuna
5. Kitschy
9. Kate __ (Purse designer)
14. Quebec: Saint-Louis-du-__! __!
15. Actress Jessica
16. "__ __ be true?"
17. Prefix to 'culture'
18. Stuff
19. Barter
20. Northwestern Ont. town, Fort __
22. Some Honda cars
24. Fashion: Oscar de la __
25. Bird beak
26. Cries
28. "Rat!"
29. Informer, to inmates
33. Pecan, for one
34. "__, __!" (Laura's catchphrase on "The Dick Van Dyke Show")
35. Peter, in Spain
37. 01/04: 3 wds.
41. Decrease
42. "That's just great."
43. Evita's land, for short
44. One of the three 'Rs' in green living
47. "Law & Order: _ _ _"
50. Alone
52. Ums, etc.
53. Bits
55. The Arctic __
57. Canadian interior designer Ms. Olson
59. Play hockey, also do this
60. "It's such ___!" (I'm so happy!)
62. ____ (As per the broadcast of TV shows)
63. Eva __, Madonna's "Evita" (1996) role
64. Bugs Bunny, e.g.
65. "___ It Bad": Tune by Usher
66. Toronto: CN Tower's locale, 301 __ Street West
67. Edmonton's CFL team's website, __.com
68. "Can you give ___ hints at all?" (I need help guessing!)

Down
1. Egypt's second largest pyramid
2. "My sentiments exactly.": 2 wds.
3. Reduced
4. Contaminate
5. Coop
6. Beers
7. Academic letters
8. Purolator delivery
9. Item on Eugene Levy's resume
10. Ms. Hilton
11. 1997 snake horror movie
12. Alberta town
13. Parisian season
21. Store job
23. There: Latin
25. "It's __ business but my own!"
27. Pou __ (Vantage point)
30. Li'l old MTV show
31. "That hurts!", comics-style
32. Beatles manager Brian
34. Food fragment
36. Mr. Asner's
37. Infomercial exercise device: 2 wds.
38. Michel __: "Rain-showers" Montreal-born musician
39. Folklore creature
40. West Coast basketball team [acronym]
41. Some batteries
45. Fitting-here fish
46. Produce
47. Tightwad
48. Quebec pastry brand
49. k-os hit: "Man I __ __ Be"
51. British songstress Beth
54. Extreme execration
56. Rapper 50
57. Chef
58. Writer Ms. Rand's
59. Sunscreen no.
61. __ Louis (Popular cakes-in-a-box product by #48-Down)

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4	7	3		9			8
	9	8						4
3			7					
9	1				8			
	6	5				1	2	
			6				9	5
					5			6
5						3	7	
4			1		7	2	5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	8	4	5	6	7	2
4	8	6	2	1	7	3	9	5
5	2	7	3	6	9	4	8	1
7	4	1	6	2	8	9	5	3
2	5	3	4	9	1	8	6	7
9	6	8	7	5	3	1	2	4
8	7	2	1	3	6	5	4	9
3	9	4	5	8	2	7	1	6
6	1	5	9	7	4	2	3	8

Weather

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
MAX: -2° MIN: -10°	MAX: 0° MIN: -5°	MAX: 3° MIN: 0°

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